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ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE
AND VIRGINIA ADVERTISER.
(For the Country.)
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Marriage and Death Notices, when not exceeding eight lines, fifty cents.

THE LAW OF MARRIAGE ENGAGEMENTS.
It is commonly said that the intelligent public regard the action for breach of promise to marry with more disfavor than any other legal proceeding. The number of such suits before American and English courts, however, shows no signs of decrease. Though seldom either edifying or moral in their influence, these cases are often instructive; and one which is especially worthy of note has just been decided on appeal by the Court of Exchequer Chamber in England.

The plaintiff was a domestic servant in the employ of the defendant's father. The defendant promised to marry her upon his father's death. This sad event, however, did not occur before the father changed his mind, and announced to his betrothed that under no circumstances would he fulfill his promise; indeed, the old gentleman was still alive. Upon this decided refusal the discarded maiden brought suit, and the Judge before whom the trial took place ruled that the action could not be maintained until the time for the performance of the agreement had arrived, which would not be until the father of the defendant was dead. From this decision the plaintiff appealed to the court above, where the questions at issue were argued before the Lord Chief Justice of England—Sir Alexander Cockburn, who is now so prominent in the controversy concerning the Treaty of Washington—and a full bench. The result was a disapproval of the decision appealed from, and a unanimous judgment for the plaintiff.

The law effecting marriage engagements is one which has been the subject of much discussion, and which he delivered on this occasion. "An express pre-contract of marriage," he says, "places the man or woman in the condition or status of betrothment. In this state there are certain mutual duties. The woman, for instance, may not, without a breach, marry another man, although it is possible he may die before the future day appointed for the marriage, whether already fixed, or contingent on a future event. So the man cannot during the stipulated period of betrothment, without a breach of contract, marry another woman, though she may die in the meantime; so for one of the parties to break off the mutual engagement by an express refusal to perform it, though before the day—seems to be equally a breach of the contract, for it puts an end to the condition of betrothment, which, according to the contract, was to continue."

This decision is an emphatic recognition of betrothment as a legal status, inferior to that of marriage, it is true, but nevertheless of great importance, conferring certain well defined rights and imposing certain well defined duties. Among these is the right of each of the parties to insist upon marriage at the time agreed upon between them, and the duty of each not to break the existing engagement or make a like engagement with another during the continuance of the status. These legal consequences of a mutual agreement to marry accord so closely with the plainest ethical requirements that they at once commend themselves to approval, in spite of the peculiar class of cases which give rise to their enactment by the courts.

GREAT SCARE.—Yesterday morning, says the Philadelphia Press of the 25th, the usually quiet neighborhood of Twenty-second and Bolton streets was the scene of great excitement. Women and children ran frantically about, declaring that some of the wild animals belonging to Forepaugh's Menagerie had broken loose and were upon the streets. Mothers called for their little ones, and, pale with fear at not finding them on the instant, indulged in the most horrible speculations. All were unanimous that the menagerie should not be allowed to winter in or near the city; that the lives of the citizens were in constant jeopardy, and that the authorities should be applied to at once to have it removed. Men, who were as timid as the women, declared that something should be done, and if no heed was taken to the warning they would organize a vigilance committee and at once proceed against the lions, tigers and other wild animals that had been keeping them daily in terror. For a time it was utterly impossible to ascertain the cause of the great consternation among the people, but after considerable trouble the fact was drawn out that the camels had broken loose. Had Romeo escaped or one of the tigers succeeded in breaking through his confinement, the excitement could not have been more intense. All sorts of weapons were called for with which to shoot the animals, and others quickly sought a place of refuge, fearing to put their heads out of their doors, lest a lion or leopard should suddenly spring upon them. When told and assured that it was nothing more than a few camels that had escaped, they were still so much frightened that it was not till long after the dreadful beasts had been properly secured that they could be induced to venture upon the street. The camels, it seems, started towards the Park, but on reaching Ridge avenue, so frightened a horse that he dashed off at full speed, running against a lamp post, and so injuring himself that he died. This was the only damage done, and in a shorter time than it takes to recount the freaks of the camels, they were recaptured and once again securely housed in their quarters.

VALUE OF HICKORY.—A correspondent of the Staunton Spectator, who has been attracted by the wanton waste of hickory as an article of fuel, says that "a cord of this kind of wood, instead of bringing to the owner four or five dollars for fuel, it converted into ax handles, or spokes for carriage wheels, or other useful purposes, might have been worth, probably, \$40 or \$50. These, too, are articles for which there is a constant demand among our people. You can hardly go into a store, in the town or country, where such articles are sold, without seeing large bundles of handles, spokes, &c., offered for sale. Why, he asks, should they not be made here? Why should not the hickory wood of our own neighborhood be made available for the supply of the wants of our own people? Why should not our own people pocket the profits of this branch of manufacture?" Echo answers, "Why?"

FINANCIAL.
IN THE
NEW 7-30 GOLD LOAN
OF THE

Northern Pacific Railroad Co.

SALES FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY,

\$1,513,400.

FOR SALE AT THE

FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

ALEXANDRIA, VA.

CHAS. R. HOOFF,

Cashier.

BANKERS.
OFFICE COR. KING AND WATER STS.,
ALEXANDRIA, VA.

UNCURRENT MONEY.
GOLD AND SILVER COIN,
AND EXCHANGE

Bonds and Stocks bought and sold on commission.

Loans negotiated, Sight Drafts, Checks and Time Bills collected on all accessible points and remitted for promptly.

U. S. Revenue Stamps and Corporation Tax Certificates of Alexandria always on hand and for sale.

W. D. CORSE. M. D. CORSE. J. D. CORSE.

BANKING HOUSE OF

WILMER D. CORSE & CO.,
Nos. 57 and 59 KING ST.,
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA.

WILL DEAL IN
DOMESTIC EXCHANGE, GOLD AND SILVER COIN, AND
RAILROAD BONDS, &c., &c.

GOVERNMENT BONDS and other securities bought and sold on commission.

Collections made on all accessible points in the United States, and all proceeds promptly remitted. Internal Revenue stamps for sale.

TERMS CASH. FEB 11-12

BUILDING MATERIAL.

J. W. NALLS, B. W. NALLS, B. F. PRAKE,
JAMES W. NALLS, SON & CO.,
187 King St., Alex., Va.

Dealers in **HARDWARE, CUTLERY**
Carpenters' Tools, Doors, Sash, Blinds, Door and Window Frames, Brackets, Mouldings, Machine Oil, and all kinds of hardware and millinery.

A large stock of French and American Glass, double and single thick, of all sizes. Paints, Oils, Varnishes, Putty and White Wash.

Brushes, Lewis' Pure White Lead, and other brands of fine quality. Putty, Turpentine and Cement, Calced Plaster, Pitch and Felt for Roofing, &c. A large stock of Pugh's celebrated Car Angers, and other articles found in first class Builders' Furnishing establishments.

All orders for Lumber, Brick and all kinds of Building Material, promptly attended to.

TERMS CASH. FEB 11-12

ROBT. JAMISON, A. M. CLARKE

JAMISON & CLARKE,

PLANING MILLS, SASH, DOOR & BLIND FACTORY,
Nos. 27 and 29 North Water street

DRESSED FLOORING AND WHITE PINE LUMBER.

RINSHILL & HOOGE,

VIRGINIA SASH, DOOR AND BLIND FACTORY AND PLANING MILL,

CORNER FAIRFAX AND QUEEN STREETS,
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA.

Sashes, Doors, Blinds, Frames, Mouldings, Brackets, Newsels Balusters, and Mantelpieces.

Constantly on hand at the Factory. Call and examine stock and prices. CASH-12

ATTENTION is called to the **NEW GOODS** receiving at **WITMER & SLAYMAKER.**

We have just returned from the New York and Philadelphia markets with one of the cheapest lines of **SPRING GOODS** that we have ever opened. We would at this time call attention to the new styles of Dress Goods, naming a few of them: Dolly Varden Mohairs; Yo Semite Stripes; in white and colors; Clouded and Glaze Mohairs; Brussels Silks, in five colors; Royal Cord; Royal Cord; Japanese Silks, in all the choice varieties; Brussels Silk-faced Serges; Takkos; Sultana Cloths; Brocade Parisiennes; Crown Royal Lustres; Plaid Challies; Westminister Mohairs; Cream Stripes; Black Silks, unusually low, &c. We please almost any taste. We know the prices will suit, as many of them were bought far below what they cost to import. All we ask of those who desire to make purchases is to examine our stock.

WITMER & SLAYMAKER.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL LIQUOR STORE.

STERNAGEL & LEE,
NO. 14 SOUTH FAIRFAX STREET.

Have received a new supply of imported **WINE AND LIQUORS.**

Swiss, Limburger and Holland Cheese, West-chian Bologna, etc., &c., which we offer to our friends and the public generally at the lowest prices.

PRIME ROLL BUTTER—Just received two bbls. Prime Rockingham Butter.

F. G. SWAINE,
cor. Royal and Cameron sts.

1000 BUSHELS SURPRISE OATS
for seed, in store and for sale at

201 King street.

AUGUSTUS WALL.

IN STORE—200 bbls Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Mackerel, Salmon, and Eastport and Potomac Herring. For sale low by

HARLOW & BRO.

SHOVELS, Forks, Spades, Rakes, &c., whole-sale and retail at

JAMES F. CARLIN & SONS,
No. 21 63 King street.

500 KEYS NAILS, all sizes, and 300 kegs Horse Shoes, in store and for sale by

J. F. CARLIN & SONS,
No. 21 63 King street.

JUST RECEIVED—5 hds. George & Jenkins' Shoulder Bacon, 5 hds. Sides, and 5 tierces Hams. Offered very low.

R. M. LAWSON.

WALKER'S VINEGAR BITTERS.—A full supply just received and for sale by

mar 18 E. S. LEADBEATER & BRO.

RECEIVED this day, 20 sacks Java, Laguyra, Maricao and Rio COFFEES, for sale low by

mar 22 HARLOW & BRO.

RECEIVED THIS DAY 50 bushels prime Clover and Timothy Seed. For sale low by

mar 19 HARLOW & BRO.

BAR IRON, Steel Nail Rods, Hoop Iron, Band Iron, Spokes, Rims, Hubs, &c., for sale by

mar 21 J. F. CARLIN & SONS.

GROCERIES.

CHINESE TEA COMPANY,
NO. 11 NORTH ROYAL STREET.

Have just received a large and carefully selected stock of

TEAS, SEASON 1871.
(No old stock.)

Japans, pound, half do. and quar. do. packages.

" five lb chests, superior quality, \$1 00

" fine, 1 00

Oolong, extra fine quality, 1 25

" superior, 0 70

Imperial, extra fine, 1 50

" fair, 0 80

Young Hyson, extra fine, 1 50

English Breakfast, 1 10

Gunpowder, extra fine, 1 75

" superior, 1 50

" good, 1 25

We are confident that the quality of our Teas cannot be surpassed, and are willing to have them compared with any in the market.

We have everything in the **FINE GROCERY LINE.**

SHELF GOODS of all kinds, fresh stock. **FRENCH CANDY,** guaranteed to be pure.

The best brands of domestic and imported **CIGARS and TOBACCO.**

We particularly request our customers to return any article purchased from us that does not give satisfaction.

Any club order purchased from the Tea Company in New York will be duplicated in price, and surpassed in quality.

CHINESE TEA COMPANY,
No. 11 North Royal street,
Alexandria, Virginia.

jan 27-12

GEORGE MCBURNEY & SON,

Dealers in

CHOICE FAMILY AND FANCY GROCERIES, WINES AND LIQUORS.

ENGLISH AND SCOTCH ALE AND BROWN STOUT; ALSO EASTERN AND POTOMAC HERRING AND MACKEREL.

NOS. 106 AND 170 KING STREET,
(Washington Hall Building),
ALEXANDRIA, VA.

Orders promptly filled. jan 18-12

G. W. RAMSAY,

WHOLESALE AND FAMILY GROCER,

—AND—

TEA DEALER.

S. E. COR. KING AND ST. ASAPH STS.,
ALEXANDRIA, VA.

nov 22-12

J. C. MILBURN,

Wholesale and Retail

GROCER AND COMMISSION MERCHANT,
NEW STORE,

No. 19 North Royal st., and cor. Market alley.

The proximity of this store to the Market House, "the centre of trade," will enable me to obtain good prices for Flour, Grain and Country Produce consigned to my care.

Consignments and orders for Groceries respectfully received, and will receive careful and prompt attention. oct 26-12

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

WM. F. BROOKES,

FAMILY GROCER,

Has removed to

147 KING STREET,
Below Washington street.

ap 15-12

JOHN HARLOW, M. B. HARLOW,

HARLOW & BROTHER,

GROCERS, LIQUOR, FEED AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

Northwest corner Royal and Cameron streets
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA.

Special attention given to the sale of Country Produce. We most respectfully call the attention of the trade to our large and splendid stock of goods, consisting of Wines and Liquors, Flour, Hams, Shoulders, Breakfast Pieces, Butter, Lard, Cheese, Corn Meal, Crackers, Syrups, Molasses, Cod Fish, Mackerel, Herring, Woodware, Baskets, Spices, Cigars, Tobacco, Canned Goods, Cold Oil, &c., and every other article usually found in a first class wholesale and retail establishment. Orders from the country respectfully solicited, and all orders shall receive our prompt attention. mar 20-12

RICHARD W. AVERY, F. J. DAVIDSON

AVERY & DAVIDSON

Dealers in

CHOICE FAMILY GROCERIES, WINES, AND LIQUORS.

No. 226, King street, corner of Alfred,
ALEXANDRIA, VA.

jan 14-12

INSURANCE.

ENCOURAGE HOME ENTERPRISE.

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF VIRGINIA.

A. G. McIlwaine, President.

D. Arey Paul, Vice Presidents.

D. B. Tennant, Samuel B. Paul, Secretary.

D. P. Fackler, Consulting Actuary.

Dr. W. L. Lassiter, Medical Directors.

Judge John F. Lay, Superintendent of Agencies.

All investments of the reserve from premiums taken within the department of Alexandria are vested in the department under the direction of the following local board of stockholders:

Wm. G. Cazenove, President.

Wm. H. Marbury, Arthur Herbert, John W. Green, Wm. Cogan, Samuel F. Gregory, C. W. Green, E. S. Leadbeater, Benoni Wheat, Wm. J. Boothe, Col. L. W. Reid.

M. H. G. WILLIS,
General Agent and Secretary,
Office No. 127 King st.

DR. BEDFORD BROWN, Med. Ex. feb 16-12

ALEXANDRIA INSURANCE COMPANY,
Office No. 91 King street.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
M. D. Corse, John B. Smoot,
F. A. Reid, George H. Robinson,
E. S. Leadbeater, William Cogan,
Benoni Wheat.

Property in the city and country insured against loss by fire at lowest rates.

Inland marine risks taken on the most favorable terms.

All losses will be promptly adjusted and paid. Keep your money at home by insuring in this Company, owned and controlled exclusively by your own citizens, and which was organized expressly with a view to stop the drain of money from this city and vicinity to other States. Why build up other cities with your money in preference to Alexandria?

BENONI WHEAT, President. oct 26-12

MORTON MARYE, Sec'y.

TRY ENOS ADAMS & CO'S MINERAL SOAP FOR
Washing Hands.
Cleaning and Polishing Tin Ware.
Cleaning Paint and Wood Work.
Cleaning Knives and Forks.
Cleaning Brass or Iron Work.
Just received a third supply of Wattle's Sweet Corn; also Gumbo and many new things.
LEWIS HOOPE, Jr.,
No. 5 South Fairfax st.
mh 7-2w

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

CLARRIDGE & GRIGG,

DRUGGISTS AND APOTHECARIES.

DEALERS IN
Pure Drugs and Chemicals, Patent Medicines,
Foreign and Domestic Perfumery, Fancy
Toilet Articles, Hair, Tooth and Nail
Brushes, Pure Wines and Liquors,
&c., &c., &c., &c.

Corner King and Royal streets, Alexandria, Va.
Special attention given to the compounding
of prescriptions. nov 13

ESTABLISHED 1792

E. S. LEADBEATER & BRO.

DEALERS IN
PURE DRUGS AND MEDICINES,
CHEMICALS, PAINTS, OILS,
VARNISHES, GARDEN SEEDS,
SPICES, ACIDS, &c.,
Nos. 5 and 7 South Fairfax st.,
Alexandria, Va.

aug 2-12

H. H. COOK, WM. F. CRIGHTON,

COOK & CRIGHTON,

Wholesale and Retail Dealers in
PURE DRUGS AND CHEMICALS, PAINTS,
Varnishes and Oils.

WINDOW GLASS AND PUTTY.
No. 107, King street.

Prompt attention given to orders and inquiries
from the country. mar 9-12

SAMUEL H. JANNEY, MAHLON H. JANNEY,
JANNEY & CO.

DEALERS IN
PURE DRUGS, LEWIS' WHITE LEAD,
Paints, Oils and Varnishes.

FRENCH WINDOW GLASS & PUTTY.
Orders and Inquiries from the country
promptly attended to. sep 23-12

FOR SALE OR RENT.

BRICK DWELLING HOUSE FOR
RENT, with water, on Patrick street. In-
quire at A. DIEDEL'S, 156 King st. jan 17

VALUABLE REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

160 ACRES OF IMPROVED LAND, on the
Middle River Turnpike, 7 miles from Washing-
ton and 4 from Alexandria, with a beautiful view
of the latter city and of the Potomac river. The
improvements consist of a BRICK DWEL-
LING HOUSE, with all the necessary out-
buildings, and an abundance of choice fruit of
all descriptions. The farm is well watered, and
has on it a plenty of timber.

300 ACRES HEAVILY TIMBERED LAND
—8 miles from Washington city—same distance
from Alexandria, and about 3 miles from a sta-
tion on the W. & O. R. R., offering a ready mar-
ket for wood and other products. 6 miles below
Warrenton, and within two miles of a station on
the Warrenton branch of the O. A. & M. R. R.
The tract contains about 400 acres; is well im-
proved and watered, and is considered fine grazing
land.

The above property, the title to which is with-
out defect, will be sold cheap and upon accom-
modating terms. Apply to A. B. Gazette office.
feb 11-12

WOOD AND COAL.

COAL! **COAL!** **COAL!**

Now discharging from schr Rachel Seaman, a
superior article of **WHITE ASH COAL**, con-
sisting of the following sizes: Egg, Stove and
Nut—which will be sold low from vessel.

M. ELDRIDGE & CO.,
4 South wharves.

mh 4

COAL! **COAL!** **COAL!**

To arrive, per schr Rachel Seaman, a cargo of
superior

ANTHRACITE COAL,
consisting of the following sizes: Egg, Stove
and Nut—which will be sold low from vessel.

Persons in want will do well to leave their or-
ders at once. **M. ELDRIDGE & CO.,**
No. 4 South wharves.

feb 26-12

COAL! **COAL!** **COAL!**

To arrive by rail from Baltimore, three car
loads of Baltimore Company's **COAL—EGG,**
STOVE AND NUT.

feb 6

JOHN LEATHERLAND,
No. 26 King street.

COAL! **COAL!** **COAL!**

For sale, to arrive three cargoes, Lykens Val-
ley, Egg, White Ash, broken, do. Egg, do.
Stove, and do. Chestnut will be sold at market
rates.